

Contributors

SD, CAR, and DL designed the study; SD and DL gathered and statistically analysed the data; SD, DL, and CAR contributed to writing the paper.

Conflicting interests: There were no conflicting interests and no costs incurred.

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BOOK REVIEW



The Changing Face of HIV and AIDS. Scientific editors: Robin A Weiss, Michael W Adler, Sarah L Rowland-Jones. *British Medical Bulletin* 2001, Vol 58. Pp 223; 40. Published for the British Council by Oxford University Press. ISBN 0199224862.

Not many books nowadays try to summarise the broad field of HIV and AIDS. This *British Medical Bulletin* does attempt to do that, in line with its usual approach to providing substantial coverage of health subjects, but with suitable depth as well as breadth. The last (and first) *British Medical Bulletin* on this subject was published in 1988. It covered quite similar topics, but the main change is the depth of knowledge.

Although the title of this volume reflects the general sense that the face of the pandemic has indeed changed in many ways—not least the global spread, and the impact of antiretroviral therapies where they are available—the overwhelming impression I had was how similar are the issues and perspectives it covers. This is partly a reflection of the extraordinary hothouse atmosphere of the early pioneering years, when we climbed the steep part of the learning curve with unparalleled speed. The subsequent years have been ones of consolidation, during which the detail has been explored and the basic ideas refined. This book reflects that, where the change in the face is in part the shift from an impressionistic image to a more fully representational portrait, evidently from the same original.

The chapters provide a balanced and compact, yet thorough, assessment of the main issues. The authors are active in the field; they have an appropriately British background for this series, yet their perspective is unequivocally global. The accounts are worthy, reliable, and authoritative. If this conveys the impression that they are rather dull to read, that was indeed my feeling. There was generally and disappointingly little sparkle or originality in the concepts or the writing. Where there was, it derived from a narrow focus on a small part of the canvas rather than any broader insight.

Who will use this volume? I would recommend it as a reliable and thorough review for a new entrant to the field. Those who work adjacent to it and who would like a compact, up to date summary would also be well served. Some of the chapters are an excellent springboard for detailed exploration of their topic. But those who already work on HIV/AIDS will find little to engage or excite them. They would probably feel, as I did, that the fascinating wider changes in the actual face of HIV/AIDS, which are palpable in their work, have scarcely been touched upon.

Anthony J Pinching

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NOTICES

International Herpes Alliance and International Herpes Management Forum

The International Herpes Alliance has introduced a website (www.herpessalliance.org) from which can be downloaded patient information leaflets. Its sister organisation the International Herpes Management Forum (website: www.IHMF.org) has launched new guidelines on the management of herpesvirus infections in pregnancy at the 9th International Congress on Infectious Disease (ICID) in Buenos Aires.

Pan-American Health Organization, regional office of the World Health Organization

A catalogue of publications is available online (www.paho.org). The monthly journal of PAHO, the Pan American Journal of Public Health, is also available (subscriptions: pubsvic@tsp.sheridan.com).

26th National Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases & AIDS

18–20 October 2002, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

The last date for submission of abstracts for free papers is 1 September 2002. The registration fees for foreign delegates is \$50 (SAARC countries) and \$100 (other countries).

Further details: Indian Association for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases & AIDS (fax: (0)91 011 686 2663; email: iasstd2002@sify.com).

European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy Expert Meeting on Pelvic Floor Disorders

28–30 November 2002, Centro Médico Teknon, Barcelona, Spain

Further details: ESGE central office, Orgamed, Essenestraat 77, B-1740 Ternat, Belgium (tel: +32 2582 0852; fax: +32 2582 1515; email: orgamed@village.uu.net.be; web site: www.ESGE.org).

Royal Society of Medicine Conference on Men's Sexual Health

13 December 2002, The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE, UK

Is Viagra really the answer to impotence, or are men and their doctors relying on prescription pills and avoiding tackling the psychological causes behind the problem? Besides impotence and other sexual dysfunction, this meeting also looks a range of male sexual problems from STDs to prostate cancer, the effect of sex on the heart to the male menopause. Registration costs: Fellow: £105; Non-Fellow: £175; Student: £20. CPD: 5 credits; PGEA Applied For.

Further details: Ms Georgina Brodie, RSM Administration (tel: +44 (0) 20 7290 3856; fax: +44 (0) 20 7290 2977; email: georgina.brodie@rsm.ac.uk).

XIX International Congress of the Society of The Fetus as a Patient

1–4 May 2003, Gran Hotel Sitges, Barcelona-Sitges, Spain

Further details: (fax: +34 93 418 7832; email: bcn2003@iudex.usab.es).